

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14245 132325Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 132308Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2821
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 14245

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:PFOR, FR, GR, PO, SP
SUBJECT: EC ENLARGEMENT: TOP FRENCH FOREIGN
MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND
GREECE

REF: PARIS 14032

1. DURING MY CALL MAY 12 TO DISCUSS ANOTHER SUBJECT, I
NOTIFIED FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL SOUTOU
THAT MEETING CONCERNING ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL
WOULD TAKE PLACE IN PARIS MAY 16 AS SCHEDULED. THIS
LED SOUTOU TO REMARK THAT THE QUESTION OF SPANISH
AND PORTUGUESE APPLICATIONS TO JOIN THE EC HAS BECOME
A GREAT SOURCE OF CONCERN TO THE GOF. BETWEEN NOW
AND THE CRUCIAL FRENCH LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
IN MARCH, 1978, THE GOF JUST CANNOT AFFORD TO
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PAGE 02 PARIS 14245 132325Z

ALIENATE THE SOUTHERN AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.
THERE IS NO POSSIBLE FORMULA FOR PORTUGUESE AND
SPANISH ACCESSION THAT COULD PLACATE THESE IMPORTANT
VOTERS. SOUTOU SAID THAT EVEN FOREIGN MINISTRY,
WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS PURELY
ON BASIS EXTERNAL INTERESTS, IS TELLING GISCARD
THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO MOVEMENT ON SPANISH AND

PORTUGUESE ACCESSION BEFORE THE ELECTIONS. SOUTOU CONTRASTED IBERIAN SITUATION WITH THAT OF GREEK ACCESSION WHICH HE SAID POSES NO POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR GOF. ON THE CONTRARY, HE SAID, GREEK ACCESSION IS CONSIDERED A POSITIVE ELEMENT. (NOTE: SEE REFTEL REPORTING GISCARD ASSURANCES TO KARAMANLIS WHO IS VISITING PARIS.)

2. COMMENT: THIS STATEMENT CONFIRMS INDICATIONS WE HAD EARLIER THAT INTERNAL FRENCH POLITICS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DOMINATE EXTERNAL INTERESTS ON QUESTION OF IBERIAN ACCESSION TO EC DURING THE FRENCH ELECTION CAMPAIGN.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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